

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A broadcast receiving method comprising:

storing first control information in a storage device of a receiver, the first control information containing identification information unique to the receiver and contract information and required for the receiver to select broadcasted and encrypted contents information;

receiving second control information with the receiver via a bi-directional communications channel, the second control information containing contract information for updating;

periodically updating the contract information of the first control information in the storage device to the contract information contained in the second control information;

sending back a receipt acknowledgement from the receiver via the bi-directional communications channel when the contract information of the first control information is updated;

receiving ~~broadcasted~~ encrypted first key information which is independent from the receiver and ~~required~~ broadcasted to decrypt the contents information; [[and]]

decrypting the encrypted first key information to obtain second key information;

storing the second key information in the storage device;

determining whether the stored second key information is valid based on the contract information; and

~~selecting and~~ decrypting the contents information based on the second key information ~~and updated contract information of the first control information~~ that has been determined to be valid.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A broadcast receiving method comprising:

storing first control information in a storage device of a receiver, the first control information containing identification information unique to the receiver and contract information and required for the receiver to select broadcasted and encrypted contents information;

receiving second control information with the receiver via a bi-directional communications channel, the second control information containing contract information for updating;

periodically updating the contract information of the first control information in the storage device to the contract information of the second control information;

sending back a receipt acknowledgement from the receiver via the bi-directional communications channel when the contract information of the first control information is updated;

receiving ~~broadcasted~~ encrypted first key information which is independent from the receiver and ~~required~~ broadcasted to decrypt the contents information; [[and]]

decrypting the encrypted first key information to obtain second key information;

storing the second key information in the storage device;

determining whether the stored second key information is valid based on the contract information; and

decrypting the contents information based on the second key information that has been determined to be valid and updated contract information of the first control information.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A broadcast receiving apparatus communicating with a first distributor which performs bi-directional communications, and a second distributor which performs a broadcast transmission, comprising:

a storage device configured to store first control information containing identification information and contract information, the first control information being required to select encrypted contents information broadcasted by the second distributor;

a first receiver configured to receive second control information distributed by the first distributor via a bi-directional communications channel, the second control information containing contract information for updating;

an update device configured to periodically update the contract information of the first control information in the storage device to the contract information of the second control information;

a certifying device configured to send back a receipt acknowledgement via the bi-directional communications channel when the contract information of the first control information is updated;

a second receiver configured to receive encrypted first key information broadcasted by the second distributor, the first key information being required to decrypt the contents information and common to all broadcast receiving apparatuses; [[and]]

a key decrypting device configured to decrypt the encrypted first key information to obtain second key information and store the second key information in the storage device;

a determination device configured to determine whether the stored second key information is valid based on the contract information; and

a ~~selection/decrypting~~ contents decrypting device configured to select and decrypt the contents information based on ~~updated contract information of the first control information~~ and the second key information that has been determined to be valid.

Claim 4 (original): An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the first receiver receives the second control information after the broadcast receiving apparatus is certified by the first distributor.

Claim 5 (original): An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first receiver sends a use history required to charge a fee for use of the contents information to the first distributor, and then receives the second control information.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A broadcast receiving apparatus communicating with a first distributor which performs bi-directional communications, and a second distributor which performs a broadcast transmission, comprising:

a storage device configured to store first control information containing identification information and contract information, the first control information being required to decrypt encrypted contents information broadcasted by the second distributor;

a first receiver configured to receive second control information distributed by the first distributor via a bi-directional communications channel, the second control information containing contract information for updating;

an update device configured to periodically update the contract information of the first control information in the storage device to the contract information of the second control information;

a certifying device configured to send back a receipt acknowledgement via the bi-directional communications channel when the contract information of the first control information is updated;

a second receiver configured to receive encrypted first key information broadcasted by the second distributor, the first key information being required to decrypt the contents information and common to all broadcast receiving apparatuses; [[and]]

a key decrypting device configured to decrypt the encrypted first key information to obtain second key information and store the second key information in the storage device;

a determination device configured to determine whether the stored second key information is valid based on the contract information; and

a contents decrypting device configured to decrypt the contents information based on the second key information that has been determined to be valid and updated contract information of the first control information and the key information.

Claim 7 (original): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first receiver receives the second control information after the broadcast receiving apparatus is certified by the first distributor.

Claim 8 (original): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first receiver sends a use history required to charge a fee for use of the contents information to the first distributor, and then receives the second control information.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A method of distributing information between a distributor and at least one receiver, comprising:

receiving broadcasted and encrypted contents information with the receiver;

distributing first control information between the receiver and the distributor via a bi-directional communications channel, the first control information containing contract information used to update contract information of second control information stored in the receiver, and the second control information containing identification information unique to the receiver and required for the receiver to decrypt the contents information; and

sending back a receipt acknowledgement from the receiver via the bi-directional communications channel when the contract information of the second control information is updated.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of distributing information between a distributor and at least one receiver, comprising:

receiving broadcasted encrypted contents information with the receiver;

broadcasting first key information to the receiver from the distributor, the first key information being independent from the receiver and being required for the receiver to decrypt the contents information, and second key information to the receiver from the distributor, the second key information being independent from the receiver and required for the receiver to decrypt the contents information, the contents information being decrypted based on the second key information and decrypt control information containing identification information unique to the receiver and required to decrypt the contents information; and

sending back a receipt acknowledgement from the receiver via the bi-directional communications channel when contract information of the decrypt control information is updated.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An information distributing apparatus communicating with a receiver, comprising:

a distributor configured to distribute individual control information for updating contract information of decrypt control information to the receiver, the receiver decrypting the contents information based on decrypt control information including identification information unique to the receiver and first key information independent from the receiver and required for the receiver to decrypt ~~the contents~~ second key information, and the second key information independent from the receiver and required for the receiver to decrypt the contents information, the distributor including a subscriber database storing subscriber data including a transmission completion flag configured to be set to a transmission completion state in response to a receipt acknowledgement received from the receiver.

Claim 12 (original): An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said distributor certifies the receiver, and then distributes the individual control information.

Claim 13 (original): An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said distributor receives a use history required to charge a fee for use of the contents information from the receiver, and then distributes the individual control information.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An information distributing apparatus communicating with a receiver, comprising:

a broadcaster configured to broadcast first key information, the first key information being independent from the receiver and required to decrypt ~~contents~~ second key information, and the second key information being independent from the receiver and required to decrypt contents information, the receiver receiving broadcasted encrypted contents information, and decrypting the contents information based on decrypt control information and the second key information, the decrypt information containing individual control information unique to the receiver and required to decrypt the contents information, the broadcaster including a subscriber database storing subscriber data including a transmission completion flag configured to be set to a transmission completion state in response to a receipt acknowledgement received from the receiver.

Claim 15 (original): An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said broadcaster certifies the receiver, and then distributes the individual control information.

Claim 16 (original): An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said broadcaster receives a use history required to charge a fee for use of the contents information from the receiver, and then distributes the individual control information.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for distributing information to a receiver comprising:

broadcasting first key information to the receiver from a distributor, the first key information being independent from the receiver and required to decrypt encrypted ~~contents~~

second key information, and second key information to the receiver from a distributor, the second key information being independent from the receiver and required to decrypt encrypted contents information, the receiver selecting and decrypting the contents information based on first control information and the second key information, the first control information containing identification information unique to the receiver and required to select the contents information;

distributing second control information to the receiver via a bi-directional communications channel, the second control information being for updating at least some contents of the first control information in the receiver;

sending back a receipt acknowledgement to the distributor from the receiver via the bi-directional communications channel when the at least some contents of the first control information is updated; and

broadcasting the individual control information if receipt of the individual control information is not confirmed by the receiver.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for distributing information to a receiver from a distributor, comprising:

broadcasting first key information to the receiver from the distributor, the first key information being independent from the receiver and required to decrypt encrypted ~~contents~~ second key information, the second key information being independent from the receiver and required to decrypt encrypted contents information, the receiver decrypting the contents information based on decrypt control information and the second key information, the decrypt control information containing identification information unique to the receiver and required to select the contents information;

distributing individual control information to the receiver from the distributor via a bi-directional communications channel, the individual control information containing contract information used for updating at least contract information of the decrypt control information stored in the receiver;

sending back a receipt acknowledgement to the distributor from the receiver via the bi-directional communications channel when the contract information of the decrypt control information is updated; and

broadcasting the individual control information when receipt of the individual control information cannot be confirmed by the receiver.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): An apparatus distributing information to a receiver comprising:

a first distributor configured to broadcast first key information independent from the receiver and required to decrypt encrypted contents second key information, the second key information being independent from the receiver and required to decrypt encrypted contents information and to distribute first control information to the receiver via a bi-directional communications channel, ~~the key information being required to decrypt encrypted contents information~~, the first control information being for updating at least some contents of second control information stored in the receiver, the second control information containing identification information unique to the receiver, the identification information required to decrypt the encrypted contents information; and

a second distributor configured to broadcast the first control information when receipt of the first control information is not confirmed by the receiver as a destination of the individual control information.

Claim 21 (currently amended): An information receiving apparatus which communicates with first and second distributors, comprising:

a storage device configured to store first control information required to decrypt broadcasted and encrypted contents information;

a first receiver configured to receive second control information distributed from the first distributor via a bi-directional communication channel, the second control information containing contract information used to update at least contract information of the first control information stored in the storage device or broadcasted by the first distributor;

a transmitter configured to transmit receipt of the information when the first receiver receives the second control information via the bi-directional communications channel;

an update device configured to periodically update the contract information of the first control information in the storage device to the contract information of the second control information received by the first receiver;

a certifying device configured to send back a receipt acknowledgement via the bi-directional communications channel when the contract information of the first control information is updated; [[and]]

a second receiver configured to receive encrypted key information broadcasted by the second distributor, the encrypted key information being required to decrypt the encrypted contents information and common to a plurality of broadcast receiving apparatuses[[,]];

~~wherein the contents information is decrypted based on the decrypt control information stored in the storage device and the key information received by the second receiver~~

a key decrypting device configured to decrypt the encrypted key information to obtain second key information and store the second key information in the storage device;

a determination device configured to determine whether the stored second key information is valid based on the contract information; and

a contents decrypting device configured to decrypt the contents information based on the second key information that has been determined to be valid.